

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA


'08 MJ 8524

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	Magistrate Case No.:
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF
	)	
v.	)	21 U.S.C. § 952 and 960
	)	Importation of a Controlled
Jesus Manuel BOTELLO-Ramos (1),	)	Substance (Felony)
Maribel MEJIA (2),	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

That on or about June 9, 2008 within the Southern District of California, defendants Jesus Manuel BOTELLO-Ramos and Maribel MEJIA, did knowingly and intentionally import approximately 10.94 kilograms (24.06 pounds) of Methamphetamine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance, into the United States from a place outside thereof, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 952 and 960.

The complainant states that this complaint is based on the attached Statement of Facts incorporated herein by reference.

  
Special Agent  
U. S. Immigration & Customs  
Enforcement

SWORN TO BEFORE ME AND SUBSCRIBED IN MY PRESENCE, THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2008.

  
PETER C. LEWIS  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

2 Jesus Manuel BOTELLO-Ramos

Maribel MEJIA

3  
4 STATEMENT OF FACTS

5 This complaint is based on the reports, documents, and notes  
6 furnished to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent  
7 Enrique Torregrosa.

8 On June 9, 2008, at approximately 2015 hours, Jesus Manuel  
9 BOTELLO-Ramos entered the United States from the Republic of Mexico  
10 via the Calexico, California East Port of Entry. BOTELLO made  
11 entry driving a 2003 Chevrolet Impala bearing no plates and VIN  
12 number 2G1WF55E239256752. BOTELLO was the driver and registered of  
13 the vehicle. BOTELLO was accompanied by his wife, Maribel MEJIA,  
14 and their minor daughter.

15 At primary inspection, BOTELLO gave a negative oral Customs  
16 declaration to Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO)  
17 Nevarez. CBPO Nevarez asked BOTELLO where he was going. BOTELLO  
18 stated he was going home to Imperial, California. CBPO Nevarez  
19 asked about the vehicle BOTELLO was driving. BOTELLO stated that he  
20 owned the vehicle for about eight months. CBPO Nevarez conducted a  
21 cursory primary inspection of the vehicle and noticed a strong odor  
22 of air freshener emanating as she opened the trunk. CBPO Nevarez  
23 referred BOTELLO, his passengers, and the vehicle to the Vehicle  
24 Secondary Lot for further inspection.

25 At the secondary area, CBPO C. Martinez obtained a negative  
26 customs declaration from BOTELLO and asked him about his trip to  
27 Mexico. BOTELLO stated they had been in Mexicali for about three  
28 hours visiting the little girl's grandmother.

1 CBPO Martinez noticed that the gas tank of the vehicle sounded  
2 solid when tapped and requested CBP Canine Enforcement Officer  
3 (CEO) Ragsdale to screen the vehicle utilizing his Human/Narcotic  
4 Detector Dog (HNDD). CEO Ragsdale screened the vehicle with his  
5 assigned HNDD. CEO Ragsdale noticed the HNDD alerted to the  
6 vehicle's rear area.

7 A subsequent search of the vehicle by CBPO Martinez revealed  
8 fourteen packages with a combined weight of 10.94 kilograms (24.06  
9 pounds) of methamphetamine, concealed within the gas tank of the  
10 vehicle. CBPO Martinez probed one package, producing a crystal  
11 crunchy like substance, which field-tested positive for  
12 methamphetamine.

13 BOTELLO and MEJIA were arrested for importation of  
14 methamphetamine into the United States. BOTELLO and MEJIA were  
15 advised of their rights, per Miranda.

16 MEJIA acknowledged and waived her rights agreeing to answer  
17 questions without the presence of an attorney. MEJIA denied any  
18 knowledge of the methamphetamine in the vehicle. MEJIA stated they  
19 went to Mexicali to visit her sick grandfather. MEJIA stated that  
20 BOTELLO left her at her grandfather's residence while he went to  
21 get the vehicle washed.

22 BOTELLO and MEJIA were processed and transported to Imperial  
23 County Jail to await their initial appearance before a U.S.  
24 Magistrate Judge.  
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26  
27  
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